

Portneuf/West Bench Fuels Project Affected Environment

RECREATION

Common recreation activities within the project area include off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, big game hunting, sight-seeing, and driving for pleasure.

The off-highway vehicle designations within the project area are “limited” and “closed”. Restrictions on motorized vehicles in the “limited” areas include:

- Limited to designated routes.
- Limited to existing roads and trails.
- Seasonal closures.
- Closures for over-snow vehicles.

Maps of the OHV designations and details on “limited” restrictions can be found in the BLM’s Pocatello Off-Road Vehicle Plan and the Caribou National Forest Travel Map.

VISUAL RESOURCES

The project area includes Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes II, III, & IV.

- Class II Objective: To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.
- Class III Objective: To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.
- Class IV Objective: To provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high.

Key observation points for the project area include Pocatello, Interstate 15, and Inkom. The western portion of the project area is fairly visible from Pocatello. A low percent of the eastern portion of the project is visible from any key observation points, due to steep terrain in the foreground screening the areas in the middle-ground and background.